AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method utilizing a probabilistic-based classifier trained with predefined data sets that are indicative of item priority levels, comprising:

implicitly training the probabilistic-based classifier to infer a priority level of a received item based in part on at least one of current or historical information of at least a focus of attention of a user that are indicative of item priority levels, the focus of attention comprising at least one of keyboard activity or mouse activity, or a combination thereof, associated with the user;

determining a priority level of the received item utilizing the probabilistic-based classifier, the priority being representative of at least an urgency of the received item relative to the intended recipient, the priority comprises a measure of a rate of cost accrued with delayed review of the received item; and

utilizing the priority level to facilitate electronic communication.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, the probabilistic-based classifier is at least one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, the probabilistic-based classifier is explicitly trained.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, the explicit training is performed during initial phases of constructing the probabilistic-based classifier.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, the predefined data set employed for explicitly training the probabilistic-based classifier comprises a training set to discriminate between time-critical and non-time-critical items.

10.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, explicitly training the probabilistic-based classifier comprises utilizing feature selection.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection includes a mutual information analysis.

12.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection operates on single words.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection operates on phrases.

14.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection operates on parts of speech.

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection employs high-level patterns.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection utilizes tokens.

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, the feature selection utilizes tagged text to discriminate features of the received item.

18.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, the probabilistic-based classifier is implicitly trained.

19.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising implicitly training the probabilistic-based classifier based on at least one of current or historical information of at least one of user presence or a focus of attention of a user.

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising implicitly training the probabilistic-based classifier based at least in part on an assumption that time-critical items are reviewed prior to non-time-critical items.

21.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising continually updating the probabilistic-based classifier *via* the implicit training.

22.   (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented method utilizing a trained classifier that classifies an item, the classifier is one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier, comprising:

    receiving an obtained item;

    generating a priority of the obtained item based at least in part on the trained classifier, the priority is a function of expected cost of delayed review of the obtained item; and,

    routing the obtained item for communications based on a routing criteria and the generated priority.

23.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, routing the item comprises forwarding the item.

24.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, routing the item further comprises:

    determining whether the priority is greater than a predetermined threshold;

    determining whether a user has been away for more than a predetermined amount of time; and,

routing the item upon determining that the priority of the item is greater than the predetermined threshold and that the user has been away for more than the predetermined amount of time.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, routing the item comprises replying to a sender of the item.

26.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, replying to the sender comprises replying to the sender with a predetermined message.

27.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, routing the item further comprises:
        determining whether the priority is greater than a predetermined threshold;
        determining whether a user has been away for more than a predetermined amount of time; and,
        routing the item upon determining that the priority of the item is greater than the predetermined threshold and that the user has been away for more than the predetermined amount of time.

28.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, routing the item based on a routing criteria comprises:
        determining whether the priority is greater than a predetermined threshold; and,
        routing the item upon determining that the priority of the item is greater than the predetermined threshold.

29.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, receiving the item comprises receiving an email.

30.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, the item is at least one of a text, a document, a file, a message, a message attachment, and content associated with the message.

31.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, the predetermined threshold dynamically changes as a function of extrinsic information.

32.   (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving an item intended for a recipient;

generating a priority of the item based at least in part on an expected value of alerting the recipient; and,

routing the item for communications based at least in part on a routing criteria and the priority.

33.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, the item is at least one of a text, a document, a file, a message, a message attachment, and content associated with the message.

34.   (Withdrawn) A computerized system that facilitates communication, comprising:

a component that trains a classifier utilizing predefined data sets that are indicative of item priority levels; and

a component that classifies a received item to obtain the received item's priority, the priority is employed to facilitate electronic communication.

35.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 34, the component that classifies is at least one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier.

36.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 34, the component explicitly trains the classifier.

37.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 34, the component implicitly trains the classifier.

38.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 34, further comprising a program that provides the item to the classifier.

39.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 34, further comprising a routing mechanism that routes the item based upon a routing criteria and the item's priority.

40.   (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising:
        determining a loss function based on an expected cost in lost opportunities as a function of an amount of time delayed in reviewing an item after the item has been received, the lost opportunities comprising an opportunity to attend a meeting at a specified time;
        classifying priority of the item based in part on the loss function utilizing a trained classifier; and
        utilizing the classified priority of the item to infer a desired computer-based automated action to take to facilitate electronic communication.

41.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, the trained classifier is at least one of a Bayesian classifier or a support-vector machine classifier, or a combination thereof.

42.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, the trained classifier classifies the priority of the item based on a loss function.

43.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, the loss function is determined based on an expected cost in lost opportunities as a function of an amount of time delayed in reviewing the item after it has been received.

44.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, the loss function is determined based on a type of the item.

45.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, the loss function is at least one of a linear loss function or a non-linear loss function, or a combination thereof.

46.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, the trained classifier is explicitly trained.

47.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, the explicit training is performed during the construction of the trained classifier.

48.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, the explicit training employs a predefined training set of data to discriminate between time-critical and non-time-critical items.

49.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, explicitly training the trained classifier comprises utilizing feature selection.

50.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, the feature selection operates on at least one of single words, phrases, or parts of speech, or a combination thereof.

51.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, the feature selection utilizes at least one of tokens or tagged text, or a combination thereof.

52.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, the trained classifier is implicitly trained.

53.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, the trained classifier is implicitly trained based on at least one of current or historical information of at least one of user presence, activity of a user, or a focus and attention of the user.

54.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, the trained classifier is implicitly trained based at least in part on an assumption that time-critical items are reviewed prior to non-time-critical items.

55.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, the trained classifier is
continually updated *via* the implicit training.